

639 Indiana Avenue, NW (Commercial Building)
(Dutch Boy Delicatessen)
Washington
District of Columbia

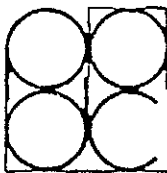
HABS No. DC-589

HABS
DC,
WASH,
303-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127



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AVENUE
DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION

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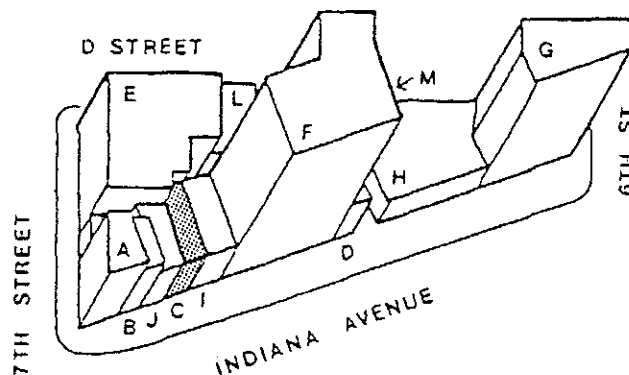
MDMK DUNSTONE ASSOCIATES
COST ESTIMATING CONSULTANT

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

BUILDING DOCUMENTATION

HABS
DC,
WASH.,
303-

Dutch Boy Delicatessen
639 Indiana Avenue, N.W.
Lot 816



This documentation was produced for mitigation purposes by the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation. Additional documentation exists for Square 458, within which this structure stands. For photographs, historical, and descriptive data on Square 458, see HABS No. DC-618.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

On the northern side of Indiana Avenue stand several of Washington's oldest structures, among them the Dutch Boy Delicatessen. The site of this structure on Lot 816 at 639 Indiana Avenue is one of eight subdivisions to the square's original Lot 6. Like several of these subdivisions, Lot 816 was irregular in shape. The construction of a rectangular three-story building 19' 7" wide by 65' 6" deep left a trapezoidal tract of land at the north end of the lot.

In front of the Indiana Avenue facade, there is an outdoor cafe. Much of the structure's first floor exterior is original; granite piers and lintels frame three pairs of new wood and glass doors. An enclosed glass vestibule has been constructed in front of the middle set of doors, which serve as the entrance to the restaurant.

The upper levels of the structure's exterior are faced in brick laid in running bond. A three-bay window organization characterizes both floors. The windows are one-over-one double-hung, with recent rowlok sills. The lintels are covered with thin wood boards.

Between the windows of the second and third floors there is a commercial sign. Above the third floor runs a simple cornice of two corbeled courses of brick. The building has a flat roof that pitches slightly to the south.

The first floor finishes are all modern.

An enclosed straight-run staircase with a modern wood wainscot and handrail leads to the second and third floors. It is located along the west wall of the building.

Like the first level, the second floor of the restaurant is an open space with modern finishes.

The third floor contains the apartment of the restaurant's owner and is inaccessible to the public.

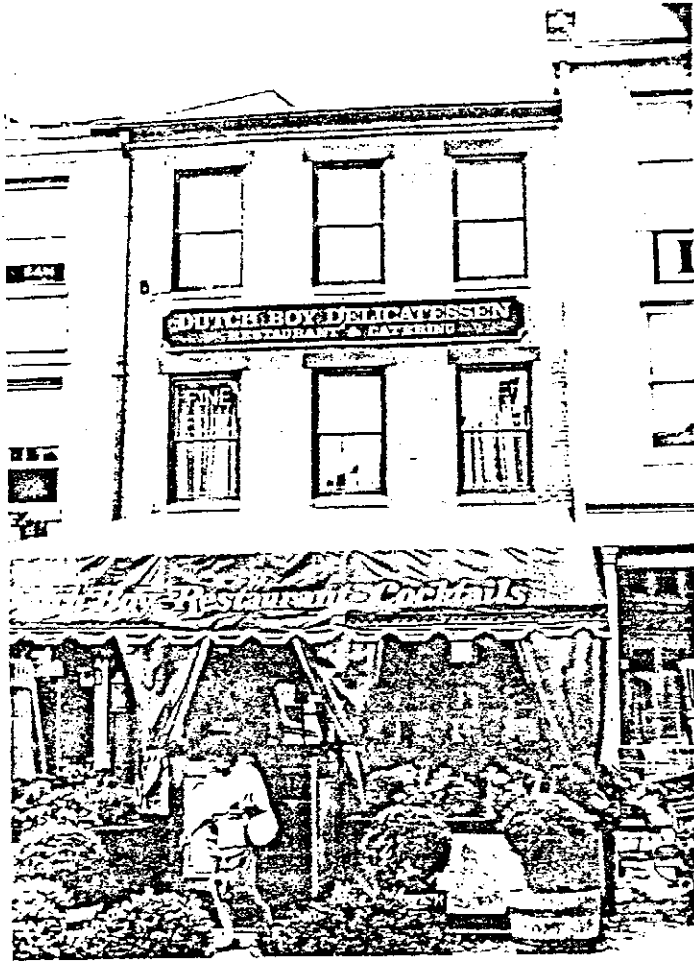
ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Although no original building permit is available, the Dutch Boy Delicatessen building appears to have been constructed, with its neighbor to the west, early in the Nineteenth Century when the land was owned by Alexander Kerr (HABS). The existence of the two buildings is confirmed in the 1824 Tax Book, the earliest extant tax records. This row of three buildings is all that remains today of the Avenue's earliest development.

Like its neighbors, 639 Indiana Avenue exhibits the transitional Greek Revival elements which were predominant in architecture during the first half of the Nineteenth Century. Rectangular in shape and constructed of brick, it has a flat roof and relatively little external ornamentation. Its diminishing three-story height, the over all simplicity and the trabeated windows all typify the later Greek Revival period.

Throughout its history, the Dutch Boy building has been inhabited by a variety of commercial tenants, usually grocers, auctioneers, and furniture dealers. During the mid 1800s the party walls between 639 Indiana Avenue and the buildings on both sides were punctured, interconnecting them to form a large market complex. The bricked-in openings are still evident from the adjacent structure. Since 1974 the building has been occupied by the Dutch Boy establishment.

Today, the Dutch Boy building stands as one of the oldest structures in Washington. Easily visible from Pennsylvania Avenue, it relates well to other structures on the block, particularly its immediate neighbors. Similar in scale and design, they form a cohesive unit representative of a very early period in Washington.



Indiana Avenue Facade

Lot 6 (Sublot 2, 816)
639 Louisiana Avenue

- 1792.....David Burnes owned Lot 6 (Recorder of Deeds, Liber A, Folio 1).
- 1799.....David Burnes died, and the lot was sold to William Whetcroft.
- 1812.....Anne and Alexander Kerr, William Whetcroft son-in-law and daughter were the heirs of Lots 2 and 3 (Deeds, Liber AE 30, Folio 157).
- 1824.....Tax books show the value of the two lots together to be \$696.00, and the value of the two buildings together to be \$1,200.00.
- 1829/33...The property is assessed to Alexander Kerr at a ground value of \$524.00. The improvements for Lot 2 is assessed with Lot 3 at a value of \$1,000.00.
- 1833.....The property is transferred to Robert E. Kerr, son of Anne and Alexander Kerr (Liber 60, Folio 428).
- 1844.....The lot is assessed to the heirs of Alexander Kerr at a value of \$953.00.
- 1851.....William G. Dealer a carpenter bought the lot for \$6,500.00 (Liber JAS 40, Folio 428).
- 1853.....The building was sold to Mathew G. Emery for \$9,500.00 (Liber JAS 69, Folio 296).
- 1870.....Lots 2 and 3 were assessed to Mathew G. Emery at \$8,500.00.
- 1870.....Mathew G. Emery was elected Mayor.
- 1871
to
- 1879.....Barbour and Hamilton, grocers were listed as the tenants of the building.
- 1872/73...Mathew G. Emery was assessed for \$4,367.00.
- 1881.....On November 4 a building permit was granted to Mathew Emery to make general repairs (Permit #543, Value \$500.00).

1884

to

1885.....Rudolf Eichhorn, a provision and bacon dealer was listed in the City Directory as the tenant.

1890.....On August 29, Mathew G. Emery was granted a permit to put in new show windows with a projection of 3 feet (Permit #493, cost \$200.00).

1891.....A March 1st permit was granted to build 2 show windows with a 3 foot projection from the building line (Permit #1674, cost \$50.00).

1893/94...The property was assessed to M. G. Emery at a ground value of \$4,764.00 with \$3,300.00 shown as the value of the improvements.

1895.....The title of the property was transferred to Mary A. Emery (Deed, Liber 2614, Folio 21).

1895

to

1900.....Marcus Notes, a used furniture dealer and auctioneer was listed as the occupant of the building.

1899/

1900.....The property is reassessed to M. G. Emery for a ground value of \$4,764.00 and improvement value of \$2,500.00.

1901.....Mathew G. Emery died.

1904.....H. R. Howenstein bought the building.

1907

to

1917.....Cooper and Miller, furniture dealers occupied the building. In 1910, the partnership broke up, and Isaac Miller continued the business until about 1917.

1920

to

1921.....The City Directories list the HU8 Furniture storage building at this address.

1923

to
1925.....John R. Jerell, a furniture dealer occupied 639 Louisiana Avenue along
with 637 Louisiana Avenue.

1925

to
1934.....Louis Krupshaw, a furniture dealer, occupied the building.

1931.....Louisiana Avenue was renamed Indiana Avenue.

1935

to
1962.....The City Directories list the Capitol Furniture Company as the sole
tenant in the building.

1964.....The City Directory shows David Bassin as the proprietor of the
Congressional Florist Company.

1974

to
1981.....The Dutch Boy Delicatessen, a short order daytime restaurant, with
dining on the 1st and 2nd floors presently occupies the lot.

SOURCES

Baist Real Estate Atlas

Bastert and Enthoffer Plat Maps

Boyd's City Directories

District of Columbia Building Permits

District of Columbia General Assessment Records

District of Columbia Recorder of Deeds

District of Columbia Surveyor's Office Records

District of Columbia Tax Records

Hopkins Real Estate Atlas

Polk's City Directories

Property Map for Downtown Urban Renewal Area for District of Columbia Redevelopment
Land Agency

Sanborn Insurance Map

STATE District of Columbia	COUNTY	TOWN OR VICINITY Washington
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME)		HABS NO. DC-589
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Dutch Boy Delicatessen		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 639 Indiana Avenue, Square 458, Lot 816		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE). ca. 1820 Source: Owner	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) This commercial building was built in the early nineteenth century and is one of Washington's oldest structures. This building and its immediate neighbors are the last vestiges of the small scale structures which once lined Indiana Avenue.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Transitional Federal/Greek Revival		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Wood joist 3" x 12" span the width of the building, bearing on lateral brick walls.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Rectangular - 19' - 6" on Indiana Avenue, 65' - 5" deep. Three stories plus basement.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE An outdoor cafe covered by an awning mask. The structure's original granite storefront. The upper two floors have three bays on recent 1/1 double hung windows carrying new brick sills and wood lintels. A large fascia panel between the two floors bears the name of the restaurant.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) 1st floor - open except for enclosed stairway along west party wall. Kitchen located at north end. 2nd floor - open plan except for enclosed stairway along west party wall. 3rd floor - not accessible.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Two projecting show windows were added in 1891 (Building Permit No. 164, 3/1/1891). New window sash and sills on upper floors of facade.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Good - 1st and 2nd floors - restaurant and cater service. 3rd floor - residence.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE This building lies within the boundaries of the Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site. It is scheduled for redevelopment as a part of the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation's Historic Preservation Plan, 1977.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDE LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Washingtoniana Collection, Martin Luther King Memorial Library - plat map information, Records; National Archives - building permit information; Columbia Historical Society, City Directory information.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Christina A. Allen, Anderson Notter/Mariani for the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation		DATE 10/8/81